

Sioux Falls, SD -- Congressman Jeff Fortenberry today heard testimony from a number of Midwestern farmers and livestock producers during a House Agriculture Committee field hearing in Sioux Falls.

“Economies in the Great Plains have remained stable and relatively healthy during a significant national economic downturn, due largely to agriculture’s influence,” Fortenberry said. “The Heartland is well positioned to lead our economic recovery, with specialized opportunities in food and energy production. I was pleased to hear from farmers and livestock producers today about ways to craft good farm policies that will shape agricultural opportunity for coming generations of American farmers.”

Over the last month, the House Agriculture Committee has hosted a series of public hearings on the next Farm Bill. Today’s hearing in Sioux Falls is the last of eight hearings held across the country, with the first held in Des Moines on April 30.

Two Nebraskans provided testimony to the committee this morning. Mr. Rod Gangwish is a corn and soybean producer from Shelton. Mr. David Hallberg, of Omaha, is the CEO of Prime BioSolutions and the founder and former president of the Renewable Fuels Association and former director of the Nebraska Ethanol Board. A full list of panelists and their statements can be found at <http://agriculture.house.gov/hearings/statements.html> .

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